

Huskers lead conference after Colorado rout

Analysis by Scott Jones

Nebraska's basketball team avoided an emotional letdown and overcame first half foul trouble to whip Colorado Saturday night and claim sole possession of the Big 8 Conference lead with a 3-0 record.

The Buffalos lost eight straight games before entering the contest. Nebraska was still savoring a road victory over Oklahoma that left the Huskers and Oklahoma State atop the Big 8 heap with 2-0 records.

Overflow crowd

So it was a relief to the overflow Coliseum crowd of 8,500 to see Nebraska open the game with a

man-to-man defense that helped produce first half leads of 8-2, 22-11 and 32-14, the largest of the half.

Jerry Fort tallied 14 of those 32 points but he scored only one more basket in the half and failed to score the second half.

"I started standing around and didn't go to the open area," he said. "I still haven't put two halves together."

With that 18 point cushion, however, fouls began to accumulate against the hustling Huskers.

Senior Steve Erwin left the game with three fouls with 11 minutes and 32 seconds left in the half and

was joined by Steve Willis at 3:40, Fort at 2:04 and Larry Cox at 1:16.

Five-point lead

Colorado responded by scoring the last eight points of the half to cut the Husker's lead to five points, 37-32.

"I think we started out good enough but we got ahead 32-14 and then we thought it was going to be easy," Cipriano said. "We were reaching (defensively) instead of moving our feet."

"It hurt us when we lost Steve Erwin early because he helps us against a zone. You could tell the difference when we lost our starters," he said.

Nebraska began the second half much as they had the first. Cox scored seven of his 15 points in the first four minutes of the period.

Willis then sustained the Husker momentum throughout the half by scoring 14 of his game-high 18 points. The Indianapolis junior said he was happy to perform well at home. His best games have been on the road, he said.

'Owe friends something'

"On the road it's easy but at home you have your friends there and you feel you owe them something. Maybe I've been tense," he said. "One of these times both Jerry and I will be hot and we'll take the roof off the top."

The combination of Fort and Willis was still too much for Colorado. When the Buffalos 1-3-1 zone defense concentrated on Fort in the second half, they left Willis open.

"I found myself being open," Willis said. "Their defense was sagging on the wings and I was playing the top of the key so I decided to try a few."

Cipriano praised Willis for his second half steals and fire power. He also complimented Bob Siegel and Rickey Harris for their rebounding. Siegel scored 13 points in addition to a game-high 15 rebounds. Harris grabbed eight rebounds.

Ron Wrigley and 6 ft. 9 in. freshman Larry Vaculik led the Buffalos with 12 points each.



Junior guard Steve Willis (12) goes for a layup around his Colorado opponent as teammate Larry Cox (40) follows. The Huskers' 85-59 win over the Buffs gives them sole possession of the Big 8 lead.

Swimmers, wrestlers victors in weekend action

By Larry Stunkel

Last weekend UNL athletic teams experienced varied success. High points were the swim team's two wins over Southwest Minnesota (SWMU) and Bemidji State, low spots were the gymnastics team's upset by host Colorado.

Women's basketball, swimming and gymnastics teams all saw action last week and the Husker wrestling squad traveled to Minnesota for a double dual with the University of Minnesota and Superior State College.

After defeating Southwest Minnesota 65-48 Friday, the Husker men's swim team drove all night in poor road conditions for a double dual with Bemidji State and Minnesota. They beat Bemidji State 83-30 and lost to Minnesota 69-44.

"I was pleased with the competitiveness of our team," coach John Reta said. "The kids didn't get much sleep, yet even the Minnesota coach was surprised with how well we did."

Pool records set

Freshman Bryan Moss repeated his own school record in the 200-yard breaststroke twice during the weekend. He set a SWMU pool record with a time of 2:17, then swam a time of 2:15.75 at Bemidji State, which also set a pool record. Just one week before, Moss set a pool and varsity record in a home meet against Iowa State.

Bill Davis was a double winner in both meets in the 100 and 200-yard freestyle. Pat Murphy also set an SWMU pool record in the 1,000-yard freestyle, with a time of 10:31.

Coach Francis Allen's Husker gymnasts will attempt to forget a 204.45-203.5 loss to Colorado Saturday, and look ahead to their dual with defending conference champ Iowa State.

"Our 203.50 score is about nine points below our average," Allen said. "We just had a bad meet."

Winning events for the Huskers included Steve Dickey on the side horse, Pete Studenski on still rings, Dave Schulte in parallel bars and Duane West on the horizontal bars.

Wrestlers split duals

The Husker wrestlers split a double dual Saturday, beating Superior State of Minnesota 30-12 and losing to Minnesota University 23-15.

Heavyweight Bruce Conger, 190 lb. Bill Hoffman and Tony Jennings at 142 lbs. all won two matches for the Huskers.

Hosting Kansas State and Iowa in a double dual in the Women's Physical Education Bldg. pool Saturday, the UNL women's swim team split the weekend meet beating Iowa 74-53 and losing to Kansas State 77-52.

Ruth Spencer, Debbie Peterson, Ginny Kincade, Mikki Crosby and Nancy Summers all won events for the Huskers.

Paced by Peg Van Beek, who won the floor exercise event and placed second in vaulting, balance beam and in the all-around, the UNL women's gymnastics team placed second in a triangular meet in Brookings, Ia., Saturday.

South Dakota State finished with 79.95 points compared to UNL's runner-up total of 73.65. Host Minot State College had 59 points.

First on beam

Nebraska's only other first was won by Peggy Newport on the balance beam.

The UNL women's basketball team will face Kearney State Tuesday night, after losing to undefeated Wayne State Friday, 72-42.

"Kearney is a shorter team, but they are extremely fast," coach Jan Callahan said. "They utilize their fast break well."

Callahan said her team will switch from a zone to a player on player defense to protect against the Antelope fast break.

The game is expected to be close, according to Callahan. The Huskers only beat Kearney by one point earlier in the season.

Callahan said she was satisfied with her team's performance against Wayne. Wayne was a very physical team, Callahan said, but the Huskers didn't get mad or give up.

Schedule for this week:

- Women's basketball-Kearney, (JV and Varsity) 5:30 p.m. WPE, Tuesday.
- Creighton, 7 p.m. WPE, Friday.
- Men's basketball-Oklahoma State, 7:30 p.m. Coliseum, Wednesday.
- At Iowa State Saturday.
- Wrestling-Northwest Missouri State, after basketball game in the Coliseum Wednesday. At Missouri Saturday.
- Men's Swimming-Missouri, 1:30 p.m. Coliseum pool Saturday.
- Women's Swimming-Double dual with Iowa State and Missouri at ISU, Saturday.
- Women's Gymnastics-Emporia, 2 p.m. at WPE, Saturday.
- Men's gymnastics-at Iowa State University, Saturday.
- Track-at Kansas Invitational, Saturday.

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